

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark  
Office  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C.20231  
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing</b> (day/month/year) 09 October 2000 (09.10.00)	
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/ZA00/00022	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> PCT/2000/032
<b>International filing date</b> (day/month/year) 10 February 2000 (10.02.00)	<b>Priority date</b> (day/month/year) 11 February 1999 (11.02.99)
<b>Applicant</b> VAN ZYL, Nicolaas, Cornelius	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

07 September 2000 (07.09.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Henrik Nyberg

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT/2000/032	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/ZA00/00022	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/02/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 11/02/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F41A17/06		
Applicant AFRICA OUTDOORS ACS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 11 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  07/09/2000	Date of completion of this report  11.04.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer  Spinelli, V  Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2124



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/ZA00/00022

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

### Description, pages:

2-17 as originally filed

1,1a-1b as received on 30/03/2001 with letter of 30/03/2001

### Claims, No.:

1-23 as received on 30/03/2001 with letter of 30/03/2001

### Drawings, sheets:

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/ZA00/00022

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1,2,6-19,23
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 3-5,20-22
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-23
	No:	Claims

- 2. Citations and explanations**  
**see separate sheet**

Part V.

- 1.1 According to document D1=WO-A-98 55 817 it is known (see page 2, line 19-page 4, line 9; page 5, line 31-page 6, line 29) a firearm device comprising a conventional firearm 10, a safety means 18 for impeding an unauthorised person to fire the firearm and an information storage means 19 storing a unique code relating to each projectile fired for recording and storing that group of aspects:
- an image in the direction in which a shot in use is fired (page 3, lines 27-page 4, line 3);
  - a sound about the time when a shot is in use fired (page 3, lines 15,16, line 33-page 4, line 3).

The subject-matter of claims 1 and 2 is anticipated by document D1 disclosure, hence claims 1 and 2 do not satisfy Art. 33(2) PCT prescriptions.

- 1.2 The further means recited in claim 6 to 19 are additional embodiments of the device claimed in claim 1 already contemplated by document D1 (see passages above) and do not add novelty to the subject-matter of said claim 1 on which claims 6 to 19 are dependents: claims 6 to 19 are not in accordance with Art.33(2) PCT prescriptions.

- 1.3 The subject-matter of claim 23 lacks novelty in respect of the disclosure of document D1, i.e. in the device according to document D1 are included (see particularly page 2, lines 25-31) gathering means defining an information carrier means separable from the firearm device whereon information can be recorded and an information gathering means for gathering information from the person to use the firearm: claim 20 is contrary to Art.33(2) PCT conditions.

2. The ancillary features of:
- claims 3 to 5 have been previously conceived by prior art document D2=WO-A-95 11 419 with reference to fig.1, 2; description page 1, line 1-page 2, line 16; and respectively to signs 50,52; 60; 24,38,40.
  - claims 20-22 are already part of the field knowledge as disclosed by document D3=US-A-4 309 095 (see particularly fig.1; description column 2, lines 17-33, column 3, lines 22-45 and respectively reference signs 12,30; 10,18-28; 32.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/ZA00/00022

The combination of the findings of document D1 together with that of document D2 or D3 do not constitute an appreciable inventive step in the sense of Art.33(3) PCT: claims 3 to 5 and 17 to 19 are not compliant with the relevant conditions.

## **FIREARM**

### **Technical Field**

- 5 This invention relates to a firearm device.

### **Background Art**

10 It is well known that firearms are often misused, not only by unauthorised users, but also by owners of the firearms. This misuse leads to opposition to the use and carry of firearms. There is accordingly a great need for a firearm that is less attractive to be stolen, and more difficult to be used by unauthorised persons. At the same time it would also be a huge advantage if the firearm could in some way discourage misuse thereof.

15

International patent application number PCT/AU98/00413 discloses security measures for electronically operated ammunition and firearms such as pistols. The electronic controls of the pistol disclosed herein may be armed or disarmed electronically and includes encoding means which arms the electronic  
20 controls to "enable firing of the secured weapon upon the monitoring authorized code". This code may be electronically personalized to the

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individual using the firearm or authorized to use a firearm. The code may provided on a swipe card or the like carried by the authorized personnel. Alternatively the code may be biometric data which retains a lifelong distinctive identity of the authorized personnel. This document does not  
5 however disclose the recordal of an image by a camera in the direction in which a shot is in used fired or the recordal of a sound at about a time when a shot is in used fired.

International patent application number PCT/US93/10156 discloses a light-  
10 energy initiated firing system for a firearm. Optical light-conducting fibres extend from a source of high frequency energy to adjacent a cartridge so that the energy passing through the fibres will pass into the cartridge and initiate a propellant in the cartridge. The firearm cartridge includes an ignition composition (a primer) positioned forward of at least part of the propellant.  
15 High frequency energy such as laser energy passes into the cartridge and initiates the forward-positioned propellant. The system includes safety means for interrupting the energy path. Again this document does not disclose recordal of an image or a sound at the time when a shot is in use fired.

20 United States patent 4,309,095 discloses a camera mounting device for mounting a camera to a hunting rifle. The camera is mechanically operated



REPLACEMENT PAGE

1B

when a trigger for the rifle is pulled and a digital camera is not disclosed. The camera of United States patent number 4,309,095 is also attached to the rifle or a telescope for the rifle and is not integral with the rifle or firearm used. The taking of a photograph is not a precondition for the firing of the rifle

5 disclosed in United States patent 4,309,095.

**Disclosure of the Invention**

According to the present invention a firearm device comprises

- 10 - a firearm;
- safety means for impeding an unauthorised person to fire the firearm; and

CLAIMS

1. A a firearm device (10) comprising
  - 5 - a firearm;
  - safety means (22, 25, 28) for impeding an unauthorised person to fire the firearm; and
  - information storage means (23, 31, 32) for recording and storing at least one aspect of the group consisting of an image in the direction in which  
10 a shot is in use fired, and a sound at about the time when a shot is in use fired.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the firearm comprises a conventional firearm and wherein the information storage means stores a unique code  
15 relating to each projectile fired.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein the firearm includes a laser system (39) for generating a laser beam to ignite a charge to fire a projectile.
- 20 4. The device of claim 3 wherein the firearm includes an electronic system for controlling firing of the firearm.

REPLACEMENT PAGE

18A

5. The device of claim 3 wherein the firearm includes a number of barrels (13) and wherein the barrels (13) are pre-loaded with projectiles and charges, which

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charges are ignitable by means of a laser beam.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein the safety means comprises an information carrier and/or gathering means (25, 28); and a processing means (22) for processing information received from the information carrier and/or gathering means and allowing firing of the firearm to take place only if the information so received complies with certain requirements.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the information carrier and/or gathering means includes an information carrier means whereupon information can be recorded.
8. The device of claim 7 wherein the carrier means comprises a card.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein the card has information recorded thereon in respect of physical information of the authorised user for identifying said user.
10. The device of claim 9 wherein the physical information comprises a fingerprint.

11. The device of claim 7 wherein the safety means (22, 25, 28) includes reading means for reading information on the information carrier means.
12. The device of claim 6 wherein the information carrier and/or gathering means (25, 28) includes information gathering means for gathering certain physical information from the person to use the firearm, whereby said person can be identified.
13. The device of claim 12 in which the information gathering means (25, 28) is located on an operatively rear surface of a grip member of the device.
14. The device of claim 12 wherein the gathering means (25, 28) comprises means for recording a fingerprint of the person to use the firearm.
15. The device of claim 14 in which the means for recording a fingerprint is located on an operatively rear side of a grip member of the device.
16. The device of claim 15 in which the gathering means is located on the device such that a fingerprint of a user of the device can be recorded when the device is located in a holster therefor.

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17. The device of claim 6 wherein the information carrier and/or gathering means (25, 28) includes both an information carrier means and an information gathering means.
- 5 18. The device of claim 6 wherein the processing means includes a memory means (23, 24) for storing information therein and the processing means in use comparing information received from the information carrier and/or gathering means (25, 28) with information on the memory means and only allowing firing to take place if the information corresponds.

19. The device of claim 1 wherein the information storage means (23, 24) is connected to at least one device of the group consisting of a digital camera (32) for recording images, a microphone for recording sound, a timepiece for recording time, and a GPS for recording position in the form of geographical co-ordinates; and the information storage means is arranged to store data from the said at least one device.
20. The device of claim 19 which includes a digital camera (32) and a timepiece (42).
21. The device of claim 20 wherein the digital camera (32) is mounted to face along the barrel (12) defined by the firearm, thereby allowing it to record an image in the direction in which a shot is in use fired.
22. The device of claim 20 wherein the timepiece comprises a real time clock (42).
23. A firearm device comprising
- firearm; and
  - safety means (22, 25, 28) being characterised therein that it

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comprises an information carrier and gathering means (25, 28)  
defining an information carrier means (25) separable form the  
firearm device whereon information can be recorded, and an  
information gathering means (26, 28)



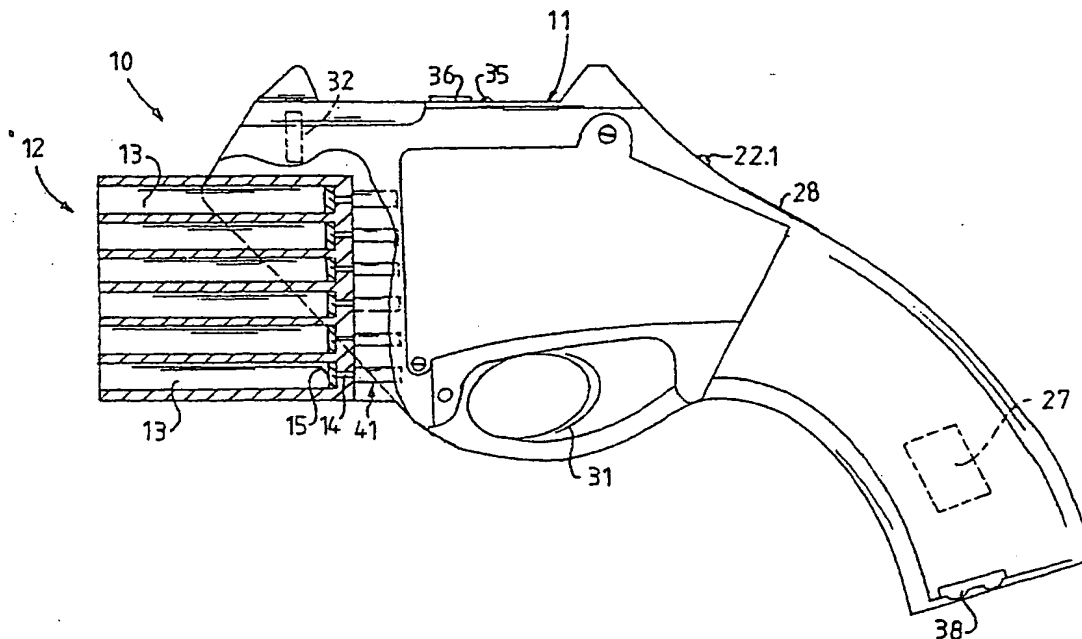
5

for gathering information from the person to use the firearm; and  
the safety means further comprising processing means (22) for  
processing information received from the information carrier  
and gathering means (25, 28) and allowing firing of the firearm  
to take place only if the information so received complies with  
certain requirements, and recording at least one aspect of the  
group consisting of an image in the direction in which a shot is  
in used fired, a sound at about the time when a shot is in used  
fired.

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup>:</b> <b>F41A 17/06</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 00/47942</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 17 August 2000 (17.08.00)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/ZA00/00022 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 10 February 2000 (10.02.00) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 99/1099 11 February 1999 (11.02.99) ZA <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> AFRICA OUTDOORS ACS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED [ZA/ZA]; 11 Bloekom Avenue, Visagie Park, 1490 Nigel (ZA). <b>(72) Inventor; and</b> <b>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> VAN ZYL, Nicolaas, Cornelius [ZA/ZA]; 11 Bloekom Avenue, Visagie Park, 1490 Nigel (ZA). <b>(74) Agent:</b> D.M. KISCH INC.; P.O. Box 781218, 2146 Sandton (ZA).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: FIREARM



## (57) Abstract

According to the present invention a firearm device comprises a firearm; safety means for impeding an unauthorised person to fire the firearm; and information storage means for recording and storing at least one aspect of the group consisting of an image in the direction in which a shot is in use fired, sound at about the time when a shot is in use fired, time when a shot is in use fired, and location of the firearm.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In: International Application No

PCT/ZA 00/00022

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 F41A17/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F41A

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 55817 A (DWYER JAMES MICHAEL O) 10 December 1998 (1998-12-10) page 2, line 19 -page 4, line 3; claims 6,7,9 page 5, line 31 -page 6, line 29	1,2, 6-16,20
Y	---	3-5, 17-19
Y	WO 95 11419 A (COLT S MFG CO) 27 April 1995 (1995-04-27) * abstract *	3-5
Y	US 4 309 095 A (BUCKLEY FREDERICK P) 5 January 1982 (1982-01-05) column 2, line 17-33; figure 1 column 3, line 22-45 --- -/--	17-19

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 April 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Van der Plas, J

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/ZA 00/00022

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	DE 198 31 690 A (LAUSTER PETER ;BREINLINGER HARALD (DE)) 23 September 1999 (1999-09-23) column 3, line 5-34; figures 1,2 ---	1,2, 6-16,20
X	US 5 502 915 A (MENDELSON EDDIE S ET AL) 2 April 1996 (1996-04-02) column 1, line 38 -column 2, line 41; figures 1-9 column 3, line 26-36 column 4, line 1-41 column 4, line 60 -column 5, line 23 column 6, line 43 -column 7, line 9 column 7, line 65 -column 8, line 28 ---	1,2, 6-16,20
A	US 5 603 179 A (ADAMS HEIKO B) 18 February 1997 (1997-02-18) ---	
A	US 5 636 464 A (CILUFFO GARY) 10 June 1997 (1997-06-10) -----	

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/ZA 00/00022

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9855817 A	10-12-1998	AU 7514798 A EP 0985126 A	21-12-1998 15-03-2000
WO 9511419 A	27-04-1995	AU 5448594 A	08-05-1995
US 4309095 A	05-01-1982	NONE	
DE 19831690 A	23-09-1999	AU 3253299 A WO 9946551 A	27-09-1999 16-09-1999
US 5502915 A	02-04-1996	NONE	
US 5603179 A	18-02-1997	NONE	
US 5636464 A	10-06-1997	NONE	

# FIREARM

## Technical Field

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This invention relates to a firearm device.

## Background Art

- 10 It is well known that firearms are often misused, not only by unauthorised users, but also by owners of the firearms. This misuse leads to opposition to the use and carry of firearms. There is accordingly a great need for a firearm that is less attractive to be stolen, and more difficult to be used by unauthorised persons. At the same time it would also be a huge advantage if the firearm
- 15 could in some way discourage misuse thereof.

## Disclosure of the Invention

According to the present invention a firearm device comprises

- 20 - a firearm;
- safety means for impeding an unauthorised person to fire the firearm; and

CLAIMS

1. A firearm device comprising
  - a firearm;
  - 5 - safety means for impeding an unauthorised person to fire the firearm; and
  - information storage means for recording and storing at least one aspect of the group consisting of an image in the direction in which a shot is in use fired, sound at about the time when a shot is in use fired, time when a shot is in use fired, and location of the firearm.
- 10 2. The device of claim 1 wherein the firearm comprises a conventional firearm.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein the firearm includes a laser system for
- 15 generating a laser beam to ignite a charge to fire a projectile.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein the firearm includes an electronic system for controlling firing of the firearm.
- 20 5. The device of claim 3 wherein the firearm includes a number of barrels and wherein the barrels are pre-loaded with projectiles and charges, which

charges are ignitable by means of a laser beam.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein the safety means comprises an information carrier and/or gathering means; and a processing means for processing information received from the information carrier and/or gathering means and allowing firing of the firearm to take place only if the information so received complies with certain requirements.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the information carrier and/or gathering means includes an information carrier means whereupon information can be recorded.
8. The device of claim 7 wherein the carrier means comprises a card.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein the card has information recorded thereon in respect of physical information of the authorised user for identifying said user.
10. The device of claim 9 wherein the physical information comprises a fingerprint.



11. The device of claim 7 wherein the safety means includes reading means  
for reading information on the information carrier means.
12. The device of claim 6 wherein the information carrier and/or gathering  
5 means includes information gathering means for gathering certain  
physical information from the person to use the firearm, whereby said  
person can be identified.
13. The device of claim 12 wherein the gathering means comprises means for  
10 recording a fingerprint of the person to use the firearm.
14. The device of claim 6 wherein the information carrier and/or gathering  
means includes both an information carrier means and an information  
gathering means.
15. The device of claim 6 wherein the processing means includes a memory  
means for storing information therein and the processing means in use  
comparing information received from the information carrier and/or  
gathering means with information on the memory means and only  
20 allowing firing to take place if the information corresponds.

16. The device of claim 1 wherein the information storage means comprises at least one device of the group consisting of a camera for recording images, a microphone for recording sound, a timepiece for recording time, and a GPS for recording position in the form of geographical co-ordinates; and the information storage means further comprising storage means for storing data from the said at least one device.
17. The device of claim 16 which includes a camera and a timepiece.
18. The device of claim 17 wherein the camera is mounted to face along the barrel defined by the firearm, thereby allowing it to record an image in the direction in which a shot is in use fired.
19. The device of claim 17 wherein the timepiece comprises a real time clock.
20. A firearm device comprising
- firearm; and
  - safety means being characterised therein that it comprises an information carrier and gathering means defining an information carrier means separable from the firearm device whereon information can be recorded, and an information gathering means

for gathering information from the person to use the firearm; and  
the safety means further comprising processing means for  
processing information received from the information carrier and  
gathering means and allowing firing of the firearm to take place  
5 only if the information so received complies with certain  
requirements.

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